

Application No. 09/838,745
Amendment "A" dated February 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed November 19, 2004

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express thanks to the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent interview held on February 9, 2005. The amendments and remarks made herein are consistent with the discussions and proposals made during the interview.

In the last Office Action, mailed December 16, 2004, claims 1-60 were considered and rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellwood (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,567) in view of Stallings ("Cryptography and Network Security")¹.

By this paper, each of the independent claims 1, 14, 27, 35 and 48 have been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim embodiments of the invention which are distinguished over the art of record.

As discussed during the interview, the present invention is generally directed to embodiments for negotiating a secure end-to-end connection between a client system and a server system, through a proxy system, and that includes first establishing a secure connection between the client and proxy systems in which at least the client is authenticated to the proxy system. The embodiments also include the proxy receiving a request from the client system for a secure end-to-end connection with the server system after first authenticating the client. The embodiments also include the proxy forwarding the client system request for a secure end-to-end connection to the server system and downgrading the secure connection between the client system and the proxy system to be insecure after the secure end-to-end connection is established between the client and proxy. By doing this, the secure end-to-end connection is encapsulated within the insecure client-proxy connection, as discussed, and such that the proxy server does not

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

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encrypt or decrypt any data sent between the client and the server. The various independent claims recite this method and corresponding computer program products (claims 35 and 48) from the proxy server perspective (claim 1), the client perspective (claim 14) and the overall system perspective (claim 27).

As further discussed during the interview, the cited art fails to anticipate or make obvious any method, as recited above, that includes 'downgrading the secure connection between the client system and the proxy system to be insecure **only after** first establishing the secure end-to-end connection between the client and the proxy,' particularly in combination with the other recited claim elements. In fact, Bellwood fails to suggest downgrading the client/proxy secure connection at all. Instead, Bellwood explicitly discloses the opposite by stating that "the first secure session is maintained between the client and the proxy". (Col. 2, ll.62-63).

Stallings also fails to disclose or suggest that a secure communication between a client and proxy is downgraded to an insecure connection, but only after first establishing a secure end-to-end connection between the client and the server.

The cited art also fails to disclose or suggest that prior to establishing the secure end-to-end connection between the client and the server that the client is authenticated to the proxy. Instead, with regard to authentication involving the proxy, Bellwood only addresses authenticating the proxy to the client, so that the client can feel good about divulging the master secret. (Col. 5, ll. 20-45). Bellwood then appears to allow the secure end-to-end connection to be established between the client and server without any client authentication to the proxy (let alone prior to establishing the secure connection, as claimed). Stallings also does not appear to suggest or disclose authenticating the client to the proxy, particularly in combination with the

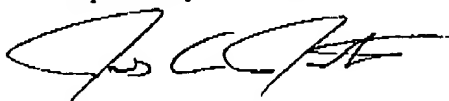
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other recited claim elements. Instead, Stallings only appears to authenticate A to B (the presumptive server based on how the art was originally cited).

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are neither anticipated by, nor made obvious by the art of record, either singly or in combination. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 22nd day of February, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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